SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Finance Docket No. 34281

LB RAILCO, INC. - LEASE AND OPERATION EXEMPTION – PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILWAY COMPANY

Decided: April 10, 2003

By motion filed on April 9, 2003, the National Solid Wastes Management Association, Jet-A-Way, Inc., and New Bedford Wastes Services, LLC (collectively, the Industry Parties), request that the Board (1) suspend action in this proceeding until after April 16, 2003, and (2) extend the deadline for filing replies to the motion to lift the Board's previously imposed stay, filed by Ms. Elizabeth Aubin, to April 16, 2003. The Industry Parties state that they have consulted with LB Railco, Inc., Ms. Aubin, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission about this request and received their concurrence.¹ The Industry Parties state that the purpose of the suspension and extension is to allow settlement negotiations to continue. Four similar extensions were granted by decisions served on February 20, 2003, March 7, 2003, March 31, 2003, and April 3, 2003.

The Industry Parties' request will be granted. The extension will encourage settlement and prejudice no party.

It is ordered:

1. Action in this proceeding will be delayed until after April 16, 2003, and the deadline for filing replies to Ms. Aubin's motion to lift the stay is extended until April 16, 2003.

¹ The Industry Parties also state that they contacted counsel for the Town of Millbury but had not obtained the consent of that entity prior to filing this request.

2. This decision is effective on its date of service.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams Secretary